

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (canceled)

6. **(currently amended)** Indirect fire device for fixing fasteners in a substrate material, comprising a piston for driving a fastener movably mounted in a barrel and a plug guide for guiding a fastener towards the substrate material, the device being adapted to receive a magazine for receiving a strip of fasteners in order to introduce the fasteners one by one into the plug guide, each fastener being held in a sleeve comprising shearable means for connection to another sleeve, ~~the device being characterised in that~~

wherein the plug guide includes

a zone having an enlarged section, and at the opening of
an opening which extends through a side wall of the plug guide in said zone
and via which the magazine leading opens directly into the plug guide.

7. **(currently amended)** Device according to claim 6, wherein in which the zone having [[an]] the enlarged section has a circular section.

8. **(currently amended)** Device according to claim 7, wherein in which, as the sleeves are connected together by means of bridges, the zone having [[an]] the enlarged section has a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the plug guide increased by the radial dimension dimensions of a bridge.

9. **(currently amended)** Device according to claim 6, wherein the zone ~~of which~~ having [[an]] the enlarged section extends axially over the length of a sleeve increased by the stroke of the plug guide for loading the device.

10. **(currently amended)** Device according to claim 6, wherein the zone ~~of which~~ having [[an]] the enlarged section is connected by ~~means of~~ a truncated portion to the remainder of ~~the bore of~~ the plug guide.

11. **(currently amended)** A device for fixing fasteners in a substrate material, said device comprising:

a casing;

a piston moveable in said casing for driving a fastener forwards; and

a fastener guide moveably mounted at a front end of said casing, said fastener guide being retractable from a front position rearwardly axially relative to said casing to a rear position where firing of said device is permitted;

wherein said fastener guide includes

a front zone for guiding the fastener forwards towards the substrate material;

and

a rear zone having an enlarged cross-section greater than a cross-section of the front zone;

wherein said device is adapted to receive a magazine containing a strip of fasteners in order to introduce the fasteners one by one into the fastener guide, said strip comprising a plurality of sleeves each of which holds one of the fasteners and is connected to an adjacent sleeve by a shearable connection; [[and]]

wherein the rear zone having the enlarged cross-section is located at the opening of the magazine leading into the fastener guide; and

wherein the rear zone extends axially over a distance

$$\underline{H = h + (L-L')}$$

where

h is an axial length of each sleeve, and

(L-L') is a loading stroke of the fastener guide from the front position to the rear position.

12. (previously presented) The device according to claim 11, wherein the enlarged cross-section of the rear zone is a circular cross-section.

13. (previously presented) The device according to claim 11, wherein the rear zone has a diameter substantially equal to a diameter of the front zone plus a radial dimension of the shearable connection between adjacent sleeves.

14. (canceled)

15. (**currently amended**) The device according to claim 11, wherein the fastener guide further includes a truncated portion connecting the front and rear zones for correct centering of the fastener being driven by the piston when the fastener moves from the rear zone having the enlarged cross-section into the front zone of the fastener guide.

16. (**currently amended**) A device for fixing fasteners in a substrate material, said device comprising:

a casing;

a piston moveable in said casing for driving a fastener forwards;

a fastener guide moveably mounted at a front end of said casing, said fastener guide being retractable from a front position rearwardly axially relative to said casing to a rear position where firing of said device is permitted; and

a magazine containing a strip of fasteners, said strip comprising a plurality of sleeves each of which holds one of the fasteners and is connected to an adjacent sleeve by a shearable connection;

wherein said fastener guide includes

a front zone for guiding the fastener forwards towards the substrate material;

and

a rear zone having an enlarged cross-section greater than a cross-section of the front zone; [[and]]

wherein the fastener guide includes an opening which extends through a side wall of the plug guide in the rear zone and via which the magazine opens directly has an end opening into the rear zone of the fastener guide in order to introduce the fasteners one by one into the fastener guide at said rear zone; and

wherein the rear zone extends axially over a distance

$$H = h + (L - L')$$

where

h is an axial length of each sleeve, and

(L-L') is a loading stroke of the fastener guide from the front position to the rear position.

17. (previously presented) The device according to claim 16, wherein the enlarged cross-section of the rear zone is a circular cross-section.

18. (previously presented) The device according to claim 17, wherein the rear zone has an inner diameter substantially equal to an inner diameter of the front zone plus a radial dimension of the shearable connection between adjacent sleeves.

19. (previously presented) The device according to claim 17, wherein the rear zone has an inner diameter substantially equal to an inner diameter of the front zone plus a half of a radial dimension of the shearable connection between adjacent sleeves.

20. (canceled)

21. (**currently amended**) The device according to claim 17, wherein the fastener guide further includes a truncated portion connecting the front and rear zones for correct centering of the fastener being driven by the piston when the fastener moves from the rear zone having the enlarged cross-section into the front zone of the fastener guide.

22. (previously presented) The device according to claim 16, wherein the fastener guide further includes a truncated portion connecting the front and rear zones; and

when the fastener guide is in the rear position prior to firing of one of the fasteners of the strip received in the rear zone of the fastener guide, the connection on at least one side of the sleeve holding said one fastener rests on said truncated portion.

23. (**currently amended**) The device according to claim 16, wherein prior to firing of one of the fasteners of the strip received in the rear zone of the fastener guide, the sleeve holding said one fastener is rotatable within said rear zone without being limited by any groove in an internal circumferential face of the side wall of said rear zone of said fastener guide.